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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tetsuro SASAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2627

Application No.: 10/784,795

Examiner: A. HEINZ

Filed: February 24, 2004

Docket No.: 118836

For: METHOD OF PRODUCING THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD, THIN-FILM  
MAGNETIC HEAD, HEAD GIMBAL ASSEMBLY, AND HARD DISK DRIVE

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

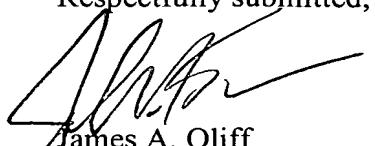
Sir:

In reply to the July 28, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect  
Group II, claims 7-13, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently  
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would  
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully  
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without  
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an  
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the  
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis  
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in  
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by  
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JDC/tls

Date: August 24, 2006

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